Halifax metro

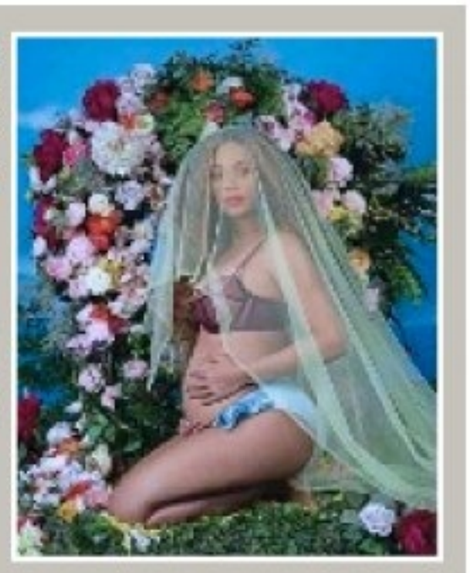
Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2017

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TWINS

MOTHERHOOD, AS DECREED BY QUEEN BEY

metroLIFE





‘DON’T EVER LET ANYONE STOP YOU’

Halifax woman using pageant platform to speak out on bullying, abuse

metroNEWS

JEFF HARPER/METRO

Liberals under fire for flip-flop

CAMPAIGN PROMISE

Electoral reform promise turned into ‘lie,’ former MP Stoffer says



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

A former Halifax-area member of parliament says the Liberal government lied to Canadians when it promised electoral reform.

After months of public consultation through town hall events and an online quiz, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau wrote in a mandate letter for new Democratic Institutions Minister Karina Gould that electoral reform was off the table.

“When I first heard that, I had to read it again, because it wasn’t just a campaign promise, they reiterated afterwards and they also put it in the throne speech,” former NDP MP Peter Stoffer said.

“What they did was lie to everyone.”

In his letter, Trudeau wrote, “A clear preference for a new electoral system, let alone a consensus, has not emerged.”

“To use that is simply an excuse that is simply not true,” Stoffer said.

“It’s just too bad, because if you can break this promise, what other promises are you breaking?”

Stoffer said the NDP will be reminding voters of this broken promise come election time, but he doesn’t think people will care by then. Though he does think it will make voters more cynical about politics.

“Right now what people will be saying is, ‘Oh, the government broke a promise?’ Tell me something I don’t know,’” he said.

Stoffer said that the government could save some money by closing the department of democratic institutions since it’s now without a purpose.

Trudeau’s letter said the minister’s new role “will be to strengthen the openness and fairness of Canada’s public institutions.”

“I think of something a farmer told me when I hear something like that,” Stoffer said. “That originated from the south end of a northbound cow.”

Metro had hoped to talk to Halifax MP Andy Fillmore — who last week was named parliamentary secretary to the minister of democratic institutions — about what the department would do and what he’d say to Halifax voters who hoped for reform.

Fillmore’s office said the issue was being handled by the minister’s office, and they’d be getting back to Metro “as soon as possible.”

Metro never heard from the minister or the department.



metro NEWS

Your essential daily news



Barack Obama was all smiles during his well-earned vacation in the British Virgin Islands.

'Clusters' of schools weighed

EDUCATION

17 facilities under review in the Cole Harbour area



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax



Auburn Drive High School and Cole Harbour District High School. HRSB/GOOGLE MAPS

Hundreds of community members, students and parents walked along a gallery of Dartmouth school "clusters" to imagine what could happen if some were to combine, close or take on new boundaries.

The second public meeting of the Cole Harbour/Auburn Drive school review took place Wednesday night at Graham Creighton Jr. High, one of the 17 schools in the process headed by the School Options Committee (SOC) to address low capacity in the family.

Facilitator Robert Wright outlined the rough options the SOC had come up with based on ideas from the last Jan. 12 meeting, but said they still needed more feedback before laying out concrete plans.

"We've been thinking about 17 schools in this review, during a period of time when things have been a little bit rocky in the field of education," Wright said to laughs from the crowd, referencing work-to-rule and teachers' labour situation.

Four main "clusters," as Wright and the SOC termed them, were put on display around the gym with large white sheets of paper for people to attach their ideas onto.

Those included bringing Cole Harbour District and Auburn Drive high schools into one, whether that became a two-campus model or having all kids go to Auburn; Astral Drive Jr. High/Caldwell Road/Colby Village elementaries, with possible boundary changes to address over-crowding at Astral; Robert Kemp Turner/George Bissett/Joseph Giles elementaries combining into two schools; Ross Road School/Sir Robert Borden Jr. High moving to a P-8 combined school; and Humber Park Elementary/Graham Creighton Jr. High combining into one P-8 school.

Four schools that "didn't fit" anywhere else were also put on display so the SOC could gather specific feedback about them — Bell Park Academic Centre, and elementaries Atlantic View, Nelson Whynder, and Col. John Stuart.

Looking at a map, it's clear three (Bell Park, Atlantic View, Nelson) are all on the edges of the families with no nearby schools to provide clustering options.

Notes on Bell Park and Nelson Whynder especially talked about the importance of keeping those schools in the historic African Nova Scotian communities, with one on North Preston's Nelson school reading "cultural accessibility is very important (an advantage of this school)."

Natasha Decoste, resident and parent, is a fan of the two-campus high school model, but said she'd like to see the review extended past the March 13 deadline so the SOC can better tackle the intricacies of the feeder systems.

"The feedback and the response to these meetings I think has been surprising and pleasant, but also creates more work for the committees," Decoste said.

NEXT MEETING

The third and final public meeting will be held Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m., location TBD.

IN BRIEF

Transit agency's location data source goes into beta

Transit users will soon be able to tell whether they have time to catch a bus, or just missed one.

On Wednesday, Halifax Transit released a beta (test) version of its GPS-based real-time bus location data through the municipality's Open Data Catalogue.

HRM already provides access to bus schedule and route information in static formats, but the new data release will allow those third-parties like Microsoft, Google and others in the digital development community to use live departure information. To access the beta version visit halifax.ca/opendata. METRO

Neptune Theatre's artistic director to take a final bow

Halifax's Neptune Theatre announced the start of a national search for a new artistic director on Wednesday.

George Pothitos, the current artistic director, will end his term in May and will remain with the company during the transition period.

In a press release, Rebecca Hiltz LeBlanc, the president of the Neptune Theatre Foundation, highlighted some of Pothitos' accomplishments over the past eight years, which include featuring work from local theatre companies and a focus on innovation.

METRO

POLITICS

Councillor likely to run for provincial Tories



Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

Halifax Coun. Matt Whitman has all but confirmed he's seeking to run as the Progressive Conservative Party of Nova Scotia candidate for the Hammonds Plains-Lucasville riding.

"I've enjoyed collaborating with my colleagues and residents & staff on municipal matters and would appreciate the opportunity to do the same on provincial issues," he states in part of a text sent to Metro late Wednesday afternoon.

"HRM is in good hands. I'd be pleased to help provincially."

Speculation that Whitman was planning to run for the provincial PC party in his area was swirling on social media Wednesday morning.

When asked for comment, Whitman responded before noon with "Interesting.... I will keep an eye open for the story. No confirmation."

At 3:20 p.m. Whitman sent a more detailed text to Metro that suggests the rumour mill got it right.

"I will confirm that as I campaigned door to door this past summer many of my residents' concerns were provincial in nature," he wrote, specifically mentioning environmental concerns, the proposed Tantallon asphalt plant and the need for new schools in Hammonds Plains.



METRO FILE

I'd be pleased to help provincially.
Coun. Matt Whitman

He also cited concerns regarding seniors pharma care, the film industry, the Yarmouth ferry, the Bluenose "boondoggle" and the province's negotiations with teachers.

"I get tired of saying 'Please contact your MLA.' We need our MLAs to speak up re: the need for schools and fair negotiating, protecting our environment, and smart contracts signed for ferry and Bluenose," he wrote in his text.

Before signing off, he mentioned his desire to help at the provincial level and then added "More tomorrow."

Angie Zinck, a spokeswoman for the PC party, wouldn't confirm to Metro if Whitman was running, but did state the party will announce on Thursday morning two candidates declaring their intentions to run in metro seats.

Work-to-rule hits sales of prom dresses, owner says

TEACHERS' ACTION

Simms worried uncertainty could impact similar shops



Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax



Alyssa's Classic Formals owner Tracey Simms helps **Leah VanGestel of CEC High School in Truro** assess a dress on Wednesday in Sackville. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Now that Nova Scotia's teachers have returned to work-to-rule, many parents and students are wondering about the future of events such as trips and proms.

Tracey Simms owns Alyssa's Classic Formals in Lower Sackville and sells many prom dresses.

10%

Drop in sales of prom dresses last month at Tracey Simms' shop in Lower Sackville.

She suspects the job action by teachers is also having an impact on business.

Until mid-December, her numbers were up 30 per cent over last year.

"Then from the middle of December until the middle of January they dropped 10 per cent," Simms said.

"You have to ask yourself, 'Why was there such an increase and then a sudden drop?' You start looking at the dates and that's essentially when the work-to-rule came into play."

Simms said mothers and daughters from across the province frequent her shop to purchase their prom dresses. The work-to-rule job action is on many minds.

"The sort of general consensus is if the school is not doing anything, the parents are taking it upon themselves that they're going to make something happen for the individual schools," she said.

"Some of the schools already had their venues booked and already had everything kind of pre-planned, so those schools are just going to go ahead and do what they were going to do."

Last week, when work-to-rule was lifted, business was booming.

"Typically it is anyway because it (was also) exam week and girls have a little bit more free time," Simms said.

"Now that exam week is over and January is over, my intention is to go back and see where the numbers are falling, just to see if we've pulled back up that 10 per cent. I strongly suspect we probably have, but who knows what will happen going forward?"

Teachers have twice rejected contract agreements recommended by their union's executive and voted overwhelmingly in favour of a strike.

> "Some of the schools already had everything pre-planned, so (they) are just going to do what they were going to do. Tracey Simms

They vote on the latest agreement Feb. 8.

Halifax Regional School Board spokesman Doug Hadley said decisions on events such as school trips and proms will have to be made by individual schools.

"School trips, proms, all of those are very important activities that schools I know are thinking about," Hadley said.

"They will probably have to make decisions in the future if work-to-rule continues on how they may offer them or not offer them going forward."

EDUCATION

Union reviews contracts



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

The teachers' union is now reviewing its contracts with the universities that filed recent legal action against them, and say the move is "attacking" educators' rights.

On Wednesday, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) said in a release the presidents of Acadia, Saint Francis Xavier, Mount Saint Vincent, Université Sainte Anne, and Cape Breton universities are attacking their members' "collective rights by suing the NSTU over legal job action."

Earlier this week, the group of schools filed two items in the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia claiming the NSTU is violating a section of the Education Act by not allowing student teachers in the classroom during work-to-rule.

"Teachers are taking a stand to improve working conditions for teachers, both today and in the future. Meanwhile these university presidents are attacking the labour rights of all Nova Scotians," NSTU president Liette Doucet said in a release.

"Given the attitudes of these university presidents, it should be no surprise that students are paying the second highest tuition in Canada and teachers are earning less than the national average when they enter the workforce."

Doucet said the NSTU is "currently reviewing" any contracts it has with the five universities involved in the lawsuit.

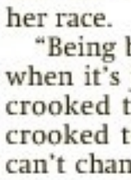
She is also concerned about the impact the move has on the "long-standing" student mentorship programs the NSTU has helped to create and fund for Bachelor of Education faculties across the province.



Meet a role model for change

COURAGE

Kay Dorrington sharing her experiences of bullying



Anna Sophia Vollmerhausen
For Metro | Halifax

When a friend suggested Kay Dorrington enter the Ms. Maritime pageant, her first reaction was to say no.

"I'm almost 30 years old—you want me to put a prom dress on and get on stage like an idiot? No," she recalled.

However, the more she looked into it, she realized it wasn't just a "beauty pageant," and instead represented an opportunity to reach out to the community to share her story.

It's a story she feels is important to share.

Dorrington, 28, grew up in Clayton Park, and said she was bullied throughout elementary and high school.

"I was really small, short, (with) buck teeth, the works, so I got bullied a lot and … I used to come home crying a lot," she said.

Dorrington, who is black, said she was also bullied for her race.

"Being bullied is one thing when it's just, 'Oh, you have crooked teeth.' You can fix crooked teeth," she said. "I can't change my race, I can't change who I am."

The bullying had a lasting impact on her, she said.

"I really struggled with that for a long time. Even as an adult, I struggled with it."

Dorrington got married at 19 and spent five years in a mentally and physically abusive relationship, something she is also open to speaking about.

"I would love to speak about that because there's women out there that are afraid to say something," she said. "I was one of them for a long time, I wouldn't say anything."

At the same time, Dorrington is looking to go to university to fulfil a lifelong dream of becoming a teacher.



Kay Dorrington entered the Ms. Maritime pageant precisely because it is more than a beauty competition. JEFF HARPER/METRO

> "Having a title like that, you get to reach out more to your community." Kay Dorrington

Over the years, she has volunteered in her church youth group and was working at her son's primary school before the birth of her daughter last year.

By reaching out to schools in the area, Dorrington said she would like to share her experiences with bullying.

"The reason I wanted to run … is because having a title like that, you get to reach out more to your community," she said. "I love working with people and I love talking to people … (and) this is an opportunity that I can actually share the things I've been through, especially with youth."

Additionally, Dorrington said, she is fundraising for cancer research during the pageant, since it's a disease that runs in her family.

The pageant's website says it isn't a beauty competition. Instead, those who enter are judged things such as personality and their ability to communicate, and go on to be "ambassadors of the Maritime provinces."

The mother of two young children said she hopes to inspire them by participating in the pageant, and to show them to have confidence in themselves.

"Don't ever let anyone stop you or (say) 'you can't do that, that's not realistic,' or 'you're not pretty enough to do that,' " Dorrington said. "I really want my kids to grow up knowing that."

"If they see me doing it, they're looking up to me, they're watching what I'm doing, so that's kind of what keeps me going, because I know that everything that I do, they're watching."

MS. MARITIME

Entrants from three provinces included

The pageant includes three age categories, and features entries from Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. This year's pageant will take place May 18 to 21.

TRAVEL BAN

Theatre director feels he must stay in U.S.

30

Number of years Shahin Sayadi has held Canadian citizenship.
Yet Sayadi is unsure he will be able to return to work in Los Angeles if he return home during U.S. resident Donald Trump's ban on travel affects citizens of seven nations, including Sayadi's native Iran.

A dual Iranian-Canadian citizen who shuttles between L.A. and Halifax for work as a theatre director says he has decided to stay in the United States for now, rather than cross the border under United States President Donald Trump's travel ban.

Shahin Sayadi says he can't risk being separated from his family in California as confusion looms about Trump's executive order barring citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries, including Iran, from entering the country.

"We're going to take it day by day and see how we can do this, but for now, I just don't feel assured that if I go I can come back," says Sayadi.

"I feel I can't take the chance."

Sayadi moved to Los Angeles seven months ago with his wife and two children, but frequently travels back to Halifax to oversee Onelight Theatre, which he founded more than two decades ago.

The artistic director returned from Halifax last Tuesday, three days before Trump signed the executive order.

Sayadi says he's unsure when he'll return to Canada, where he has been a citizen for 30 years, because he isn't certain he would be let back into the United States — even though he holds a green card that allows him to live and work there.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Watchdog says no grounds for charge against officer

Nova Scotia's police watchdog says an investigation into a possible obstruction of justice in 2014 involving a member of Cape Breton Regional Police has found no reasonable grounds to lay a charge.

The Serious Incident Response Team says it was contacted in October by police concerned that the officer may have either provided false information knowing it would be used in a request for a search warrant, or that he may have mishandled a drug exhibit.

The investigation found another officer was preparing an affidavit in an attempt to obtain a search warrant for a "particular target" that included information from the subject officer about his seizure of a large quantity of drugs from the same target several months earlier.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fishermen fight turbine decision

BAY OF FUNDY

Group wants project on hold until more testing is done

A group of fishermen is asking a Nova Scotia Supreme Court judge to overturn a decision by the province's environment minister to approve the installation of a massive tidal turbine in the Bay of Fundy, saying the decision last June was based on poor scientific data.

The 1,000-tonne generator was installed in the Minas Passage in November, but the Bay of Fundy Inshore Fishermen's Association says the test project should be put on hold to ensure the bay's productive ecosystem is not harmed.

David Coles, the lawyer representing the 175-member association, told the court that Environment Minister Margaret Miller overstepped her authority last June because the company behind the project — Cape Sharp Tidal — did not submit enough scientific data about the state of the bay prior to installation.

"The minister was required to consider certain things, and they're just not in the record," Coles told Judge Heather Robertson.

Coles said Miller's decision was unreasonable because the company drafted an environmental effects monitoring program without first compiling "relevant baseline data" about the bay's ecosystem, as spelled out in the province's environmental regulations.

"There's nothing in the court record to indicate the minister followed through on that responsibility," he said. "The baseline ... is the status of the Bay of Fundy prior to being disturbed by the turbines."

The lawyer also cited letters submitted by the federal Fisheries Department that indicate the company's environmental monitoring program "will provide only a limited understanding of the interaction with the marine environment."

The department concluded that "more robust data is needed," he said.

The judge challenged Coles on several occasions, suggesting the amount of baseline data compiled by the company might never be enough to satisfy the project's critics.

Spokesman Colin Sproul has said the fishermen aren't opposed to renewable energy, they just want to make sure the existing turbine and the ones that follow do not cause irreparable harm to the bay.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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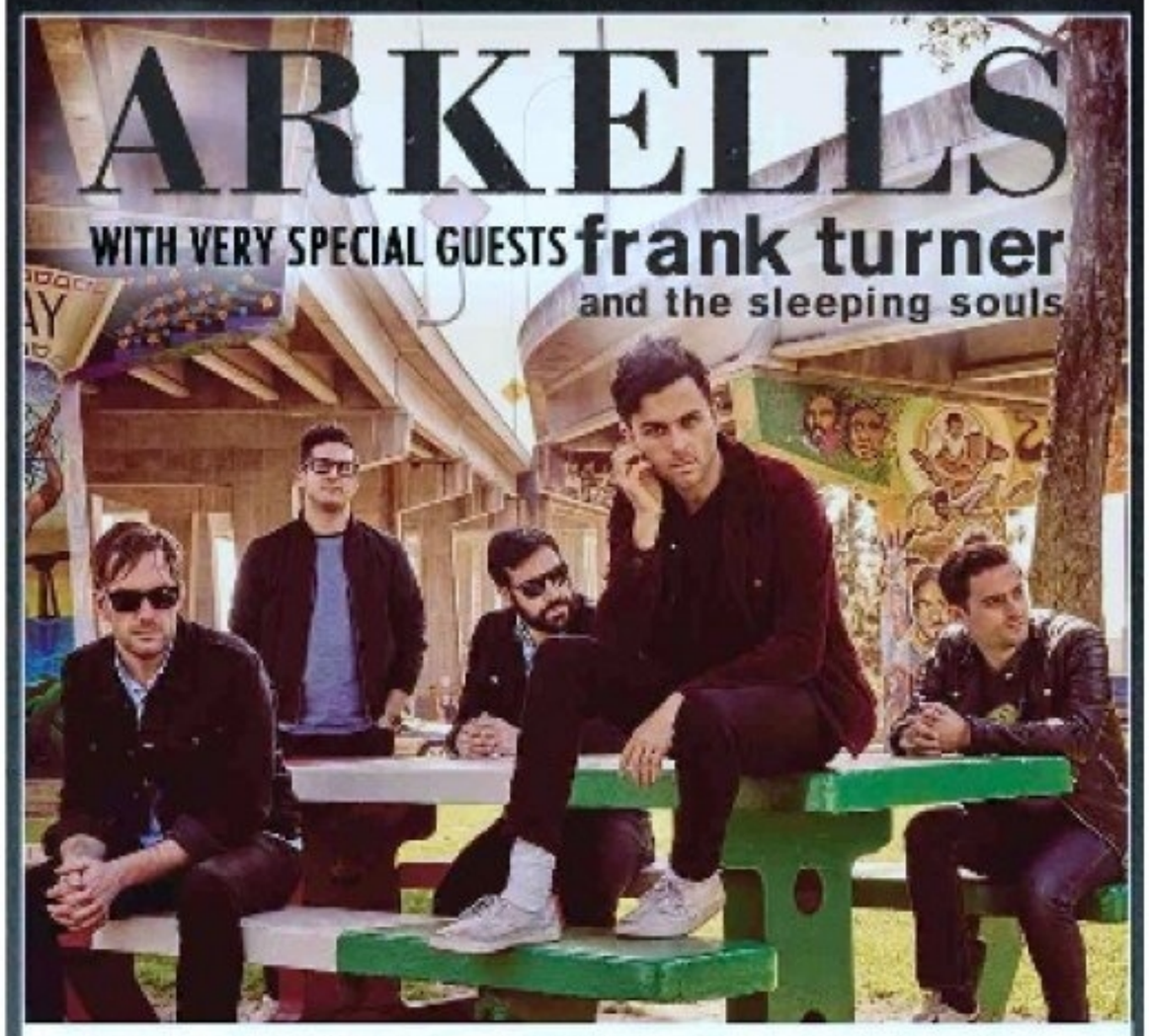
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NATIONAL IDENTITY

What it takes to be 'one of us'

Who is a "true Canadian?" For the majority of respondents in a new survey, it's somebody who not only speaks English or French but also "shares Canadian customs and traditions" — a marker that Canadians prioritized more than even the Australians, French or Americans.

With an eye on nationalist movements and rising anti-immigrant sentiment, the Pew Research Center conducted a survey of more than 14,500 people in 14 countries to investigate global perspectives on a thorny idea: What does it take to be "one of us?"

In a report released Wednesday, Pew researchers found language was the most critical factor for how people defined a "true" member of their nation, with the Netherlands, Hungary and United Kingdom placing the highest premium on speaking the native tongue.

Canadians and Italians were the least likely to link language with national identity, though nearly nine-in-10 Canadians (both Anglophone and Francophone) still felt speaking French or English was "very" or "somewhat" important — despite the fact 20.6 per cent of Canadians did not consider either to be their mother tongue, according to the 2011 census.

In Canada, 54 per cent of 1,020 respondents also placed a high premium on shared "customs and traditions" when defining the Canadian identity, with only Hungary, Greece and Poland showing larger proportions of people who prioritized shared culture — something that "jumped out" for Bruce Stokes, the author of the report.

"For whatever it means, Canadians seem to value customs and traditions more so than even people in the U.S. or in many of the European countries," said Stokes, director of Global Economic Attitudes with the Pew Research Center, a non-partisan think tank based in Washington, D.C.

Like all polls, this one has important limitations, including the fact the nebulous phrase of "national customs and traditions" was not defined and left for individual respondents to interpret.

Canadians in the Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories were also excluded from the Canadian survey, which was conducted in April and May 2016 and had a margin of error of 3.9 percentage points at a 95 per cent confidence level.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

BY THE NUMBERS

14	20.6%	54%
Over 14,500 people in 14 countries were asked what it takes to be "one of them."	About 1 in 5 Canadians didn't consider French or English as their mother tongue	More than half of Canadians said shared "customs and traditions" were important.



Bloodstains inside a Quebec City mosque Wednesday. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A heartbreaking return to mosque

QUEBEC CITY

Praying will not be the same, attendants say

Three Muslims returned to the Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec before dawn Wednesday for morning prayers, kneeling on carpets still blood-stained from the attack that took place.

The shoes of the six men shot dead were still at the entrance. Bullet holes pierced the walls. Blood stains blemished green and beige carpets.

Hearing it was reopened, members of the congregation trickled in slowly to see their place of worship forever changed.

"It's not the same feeling that I had felt (for this mosque)," Amel Henchere said between sobs. "Before the drama this was our place of culture, our place of peace … we'll never feel the same."

She added that it was important for her to come back to her community space, despite the grief, to fight her fears.

"It's hard for all of us to come back here and pray," agreed Ahmed Elrefai, who said there were three worshippers in attendance. "But people are urging us to open as soon as possible. So we prayed, even with the blood on the floor."

A prayer mat and toppled microphone lay at the front of the room, soiled with blood and surrounded by broken drywall from the bullet holes that pierced the walls. Bloodstains trail down stairs into the basement, where victims went into hiding after they had been shot.

Everything will change here, said Samir, who declined to give his last name, but administers the mosque's Facebook page.

Samir said police returned the keys to the congregation late Tuesday night. While the mosque is now open, he said that he doesn't believe the congregation will pray the same way again, with their backs to the door.

"We have fear behind us," he said. "I don't know how we will be able to turn our backs on that … We have to find a way to protect ourselves."

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'60S SCOOP

Feds seeking to address dark chapter'

In a major shift in tactics, the federal government said Wednesday that it wants to negotiate claims resulting from the so-called '60s Scoop in which thousands of Indigenous children were taken from their families and placed in non-native homes.

The change, which comes after years of litigation and as a judge gets set to rule on a $1.3-billion class action in Ontario, aims to resolve a "dark and painful chapter" in Canada's history, Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett told the House of Commons.

"I am very proud to say that we are adversaries no more and that negotiation rather than litigation is our government's preferred route to settle these differences and right historical wrongs," Bennett said. "Resolving these cases is an important step in our journey of reconciliation with indigenous peoples."

Bennett's statement, which was short on details, comes after a last-minute cancellation of a hearing the judge in the Ontario case had requested for Thursday.

Two former Indigenous leaders were expected to tell the court about the advice they would have given the government — had they been asked — on helping on-reserve children retain their cultural identities after placement in non-indigenous homes.

Instead, government lawyers this week informed Superior Court Justice Edward Belobaba that they now had no plans to cross-examine the aging elders or any further evidence to tender, documents show.

In response, Belobaba scrapped the hearing and instead asked for brief written submissions to be filed before the weekend. He also said he expected to announce a date for his ruling next week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cities to get idle money

INFRASTRUCTURE

Liberals set to move $30 million to gas tax fund

Newly released documents show the Liberal government is expecting to send some $30 million in unused infrastructure money directly to cities through a temporary top-up to the gas tax fund.

The party has long promised to shift unused infrastructure money to the fund, which allows cities to spend on roads, highways, transit, water and sewer systems without having to apply for federal funding.

The $30-million sum is the bulk of what's left of $837 million from four separate programs, set up under previous governments, that had yet to be spent when the Liberals took office in November 2015.

The Liberals gave the provinces and territories until last March to allocate as much of the leftover money as possible to new projects.

Cities and provinces have long argued the money was difficult to access because previous governments had put various restrictions on how the money could be spent.

More than $800 million of what was left over had been allocated; one document tabled in Parliament this week showed that just prior to the March deadline, there was less than $32 million still left.

"That money (the $837 million) we could have delivered through the gas tax fund," Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi said Wednesday on his way into a caucus meeting.

"The vast majority of those dollars are now allocated to new projects and only a few million will be delivered to municipalities through the gas tax fund." THE CANADIAN PRESS

BACKGROUND

The problem for the Liberals is that infrastructure money doesn't flow quickly.

It only leaves the federal treasury once project proponents submit receipts for reimbursement, often leaving a lag between when work takes place and when infrastructure money is actually spent.

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Black History Month talk all about Trump

POLITICS

President discussed evils of media and own triumphs

Happy Black History Month, everyone. Have you heard about the greatness and persecution of Donald J. Trump?

The president of the United States held an "African-American History Month listening session" in the Roosevelt Room of the White House on Wednesday. He began with a five-minute monologue that was more about himself — his campaign, his popularity, his alleged mistreatment by the media — than it was about African-Americans.

"OH. MY. EFFING. GAWD. Trump's Black History Month speech is an abomination," Sil Lai Abrams, author of the book Black Lotus, wrote in a representative post on Twitter.

Trump's remarks bore no resemblance to the Black History Month speeches of Democrat Barack Obama, the first black president, nor did they resemble those of Republican George W. Bush. Trump appeared more interested in the evils of the media and triumphs of his own.

His third paragraph, for example, started with a lone sentence about the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. It was followed by 10 sentences of media criticism.

Trump said King's "incredible example is unique in American history." Immediately, he pivoted to his oft-repeated gripe about a Time reporter's erroneous claim — which the reporter quickly corrected and apologized for — that he had removed a King bust from the Oval Office after moving in.

"You read all about Dr. Martin Luther King a week ago when somebody said I took the statue out of my office. And it turned out that that was fake news," Trump said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



President Donald Trump holds an African-American History Month listening session in the Roosevelt Room of the White House on Wednesday in Washington, DC. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

GLOBAL DIGEST

UNITED KINGDOM

Brexit inching closer

Britain moved closer to leaving the European Union Wednesday as lawmakers backed a bill authorizing divorce proceedings and kept alive the government's plan to trigger Brexit talks within weeks.

The House of Commons decisively backed the bill by 498 votes to 114, sending it on for committee scrutiny.

The result was a victory for the Conservative government, which had fought in court to avert the vote out of fear Parliament would impede its Brexit plans. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRAN

U.S. puts Iran 'on notice'

The White House issued a cryptic warning Wednesday that the U.S. will act against Iran unless it stops testing ballistic missiles and supporting Houthi rebels in Yemen, but declined to say what retaliatory actions the U.S. would pursue.

Michael Flynn, President Donald Trump's national security adviser, forcefully denounced Iran's behaviour in his first public remarks since Trump took office.

He accused Iran of threatening U.S. allies and spreading instability throughout the Middle East while faulting the Obama administration for doing too little to stop the Islamic Republic. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YEMEN

Trump makes surprise trip to honour fallen Navy SEAL

Assuming the sombre duties of commander in chief, President Donald Trump made an unannounced trip Wednesday to honour the returning remains of a U.S. Navy SEAL killed in a weekend raid in Yemen. Chief Special Warfare Operator William "Ryan" Owens, a 36-year-old from Peoria, Illinois, was the first known U.S. combat casualty since Trump took office. More than half a dozen militant suspects were also killed in the raid on an al-Qaida compound. More than a dozen civilians were also killed in the operation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel clears out West Bank settlers

Israeli forces uprooted a West Bank outpost on Wednesday, removing residents and hundreds of their supporters in sometimes violent clashes as they dismantled a community that has become a symbol of Jewish settler defiance.

The evacuation, which followed years of legal battles, came amid a flurry of bold new settlement moves by Israel's government, which has been buoyed by the election of President Donald Trump.

Thousands of police officers carried out the removal, squaring off against hundreds of protesters, many of them young religious activists who flocked to the wind-swept hilltop to show their solidarity with residents.

Planting themselves inside trailer homes and the community's synagogue, the protesters defied police, who carried some away. Protesters chained themselves to heavy objects or linked arms to form a wall against police, chanting "Jews don't expel Jews!" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, February 2, 2017

BOB HEPBURN ON O'LEARY'S ALLEGIANCE



Can an ego-driven Boston resident with seemingly no true commitment to the Conservative Party — or for Canada for that matter — really be the best hope for the Tories?

Kevin O'Leary may be running for Canada's Conservative Party leadership, but his heart and soul live in Boston.

Indeed, O'Leary's a Bostonian to the core — and despite wanting to be Canada's next prime minister he has zero plans to move back to Canada any time soon.

He's lived in downtown Boston for more than 20 years, most of his work is based there, his favourite restaurant is just five blocks from his home, his favourite business meeting spot is nearby and he loves watching his favourite Boston sports team on TV regardless of where he is in the world.

"Boston is a really special place for me" O'Leary told Boston Magazine last October. "There's no town like Boston."

Although he maintains a home in Toronto and a cottage in Muskoka, O'Leary won't commit to moving to Canada full-time if he wins the leadership, won't promise to run as a Conservative in the 2019 election if he loses the leadership contest, and won't commit to no longer appear as a panellist on U.S. television program Shark Tank if chosen as Tory leader.

Can an ego-driven Boston resident with seemingly no true commitment to the Conservative Party — or for Canada for that matter — really be the best hope for the Tories, who are in the midst of a 14-person leadership race?

A look at his life in Boston shows why O'Leary still calls the city home.

O'Leary and his wife first moved to the city in the early 1990s. Since 1999 he has lived in a brownstone condominium on fashionable Marlborough St. in the expensive Back Bay area just two blocks from the Boston Public Garden. The condo has more than 2,300 square feet of living space.



JUST VISITING? The Tories slammed Michael Ignatieff in 2011 for having lived 34 years outside of Canada. But Conservative leadership candidate Kevin O'Leary has a similar story, Bob Hepburn writes. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I have homes in Toronto, Geneva, and other places, but Boston is home. In fact, my favourite home of them all is on Marlborough Street," he told Boston Magazine.

He also told Business Journal that he loves "the uneven bricks in front of my place. I don't have a car. I walk everywhere, and I love Boston for that, and that's one of the great things about our city."

His favourite restaurant is Grill 23 and Bar at 161 Berkeley St., a trendy steak house just a five-block walk from his home. He sits across from the upstairs bar so he can watch sports on TV.

His top spot for conducting deals is a special table in a back corner of the Taj Boston Hotel, where he can watch the front door to see his guest arrive.

And his favourite sports teams aren't the Toronto Blue Jays or the Montreal Canadiens. Rather, he likes the Boston Red Sox and is a huge New England Patriots football team fan, bragging that he never misses watching a game.

Importantly, since he entered the leadership race two weeks ago, O'Leary won't talk about his future residency plans. Through his spokesman this week, I asked only three questions: Will he continue to split his time between here and Boston if he becomes leader; will he run in the next election even if he loses the contest; and will he still appear on Shark Tank if elected leader?

Not one question was answered. Instead, here is the entire reply:

"Mr. O'Leary is committed to Conservatives and Canada. We are focusing our attention on signing up more members to help us build a strong campaign to form a majority Conservative government in 2019.

"Kevin is focused on winning the Leadership of the Conservative Party of Canada and the response to Mr. O'Leary's candidacy is energized. Conservatives in Canada are tired of hearing the same double talk from Justin Trudeau. He ran on promises to be an open and transparent government — but we have only seen evidence to the contrary.

"As I mentioned before Mr. O'Leary is committed to the Conservative Party of Canada and is focusing on winning the leadership and subsequently the General Election in 2019."

Telling, eh?

Leading up to the 2011 federal election, the Tories ran a series of brutal, but effective, attack ads against Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff, focusing on his having lived 34 years outside Canada. With a tag line of "Just Visiting," the ads blasted Ignatieff, saying "He's not in it for you or for Canada. He's just in it for himself. It's the only reason he's back."

At least Ignatieff moved back to Canada full-time before entering politics. O'Leary won't even promise to do that if he becomes Tory leader.

Is he "just visiting" even more than Ignatieff was?

Bob Hepburn is a columnist with the Toronto Star.

VICKY MOCHAMA



Face it: Politics and pigskin come as a pair

For the first time, I'm ever-so-slightly cheering against my own team. I am a New England Patriots fan and even I have to admit this amounts to being a Trump supporter.

In late 2015, a reporter noticed that Patriots quarterback Tom Brady had a Make America Great Again hat in his locker. When asked if he thought Trump would make a good president, Brady said, "I hope so. That would be great." He has since been banned from talking about politics by his wife, Gisele Bundchen.

Despite what Gisele wants, football is inseparable from politics and always has been. From the civil-rights actions of players in the '60s to today's issues around domestic violence and concussion science, the politics of the pigskin reflect the politics of the day.

The Patriots are owned by Robert Kraft, an ardent Trump supporter. And head coach Bill Belichick, though unwilling to say it out loud, is enough of a fan that he sent Trump a letter of support. The man barely speaks to media; what is he doing writing a whole letter?

When I would explain where the Patriots fandom lies in the football landscape, I used to say, "It's like cheering for Scar in the Lion King." Since the team's leadership is firmly pro-Trump and bound for another Super Bowl, I'll probably add, "Now imagine if Scar won the Electoral College but not the popular vote."

As a black person, I can't even believe I'm in the position of cheering for a team so white they have men in Minutemen regalia who fire muskets at the end of a touchdown.

I get even more distraught when thinking about the opposing team: the scrappy Atlanta Falcons. Where the Pats are rooted in white Bostonian culture, the Falcons are a reflection of Atlanta's rich black life. Michael Vick, a former quarterback, wrote for Players, "… it meant a lot to me to be able to give the black kids of Atlanta their very own black quarterback."

Arthur Blank, the Falcons' owner, is noted for his philanthropy and generosity to Democratic Party causes. He's also Jewish, and recently criticized Trump for omitting Jews from his Holocaust remembrance message.

There's not even a break from politics during commercial breaks. Budweiser's Super Bowl ad shows the immigrant origin story that led to the creation of beer giant Anheuser-Busch InBev. (InBev came much later via mergers and acquisitions. I look forward to that commercial.) A handful of others carry a political message: KIA would like you think about the environment, Audi has some questions about gender equity (the answer is: buy an Audi); even GoDaddy winks at women in tech.

In its loud, contradictory and hyper capitalist way, the Super Bowl distils the complicated nature of our politics. Every day we vote with our choices. So sometimes, in cheering for the Patriots, I, like many, find myself rooting against my interests.

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news



Hillary Clinton will reflect on her election loss in a new book coming out this fall

A GUIDE TO TELEVISION ZOMBIES

The Walking Dead's return is a week away, but here's something to sate your appetite, zombie fans: **Netflix's Santa Clarita Diet**, dropping Friday. Drew Barrymore's suburban realtor mom with a gory secret is the latest addition to the ever-growing roster of TV's undead. **Here's a primer on five shows to catch this year with varying degrees of humour, heart and braaaaains**. Minor spoilers follow. EVA LAM/METRO

The Walking Dead (AMC)



What's the zombie science?: The z-word is never used: biter, the infected and, oddly, geek are other sobriquets. Every human is infected with a virus that reanimates them after death, unless the brain is destroyed. We may never know the whole story; creator Robert Kirkman said defining the outbreak's origins isn't a priority. **How traditional are the zombies?** Like the gold-standard Romero zombie, walkers are relatively slow and not terribly intelligent. While the undead present a very real danger, TWD's various human villains drive home the message that Man Is The Real Monster, **which makes this series ideal for fans of:** Night of the Living Dead, 28 Days Later. **Mid-S7 premieres Feb. 12.**

Z Nation (SyFy)



What's the zombie science? The Centers for Disease Control-dubbed ZN1 virus is responsible for turning the world into a zombie wasteland, and as with TWD, only brain trauma can kill a victim. A sole human, a prisoner named Murphy, appears to be immune to infection three years after the initial outbreak. **How traditional are the zombies?** Hey Walking Dead, Z Nation sees your melted walkers and raises you irradiated zombies and zombie-plant hybrids. Aside from these fancy outliers that appear in a few episodes, the zombies of Z Nation are generally faster than those of TWD, especially when they are "fresh." And without giving too much away, did someone say zombie telepathy? **For fans of:** Resident Evil, From Dusk Till Dawn. **S4 premieres later this year.**



Santa Clarita Diet (Netflix)

What's the zombie science? Drew Barrymore's Sheila Hammond has an epic pukefest, dies and wakes up craving tasty human flesh. The "why" isn't entirely clear but hey, on to the wacky hijinks. **How traditional are the zombies?** Sheila's no shambling, dead-eyed ghoul. She resurrects with heightened energy and confidence; as she perkily tells her concerned yet supportive husband Joel, she may eat people but she "can also parallel park in one move now." **For fans of:** Dexter, United States of Tara. **Series premieres Feb. 3**

iZombie (The CW)



What's the zombie science? This is one sports drink that should come with a whopper of a warning: The popular in-universe Max Rager beverage, taken in combination with a street drug, has the side effect of zombie-ism. Humans can also be turned through sexual contact or a scratch, the latter being how our hero Liv Moore becomes iZombie. **How traditional are the zombies?** Liv craves brains, and if she goes without for too long she becomes dumber and more aggressive. Liv finds a steady source of non-living brains through her job at the medical examiner's office. Each brain she eats gives her the person's memories and personality for a short time, and like an undead Nancy Drew she uses her newfound powers to help solve the person's murder. **For fans of:** Veronica Mars, Dead Like Me. **S3 premieres April 4.**

Glitch (Netflix)



What's the zombie science? The mystery behind the resurrection of a group of strangers in the fictional Australian town of Yoranna is a major plot point. Hints are dropped about the involvement of a shady pharmaceutical company as a police officer and a doctor investigate the events. **How traditional are the zombies?** The risen notably do NOT crave brains and other than some initial confusion and amnesia appear to be in perfect health, whether they've been dead for two years or 200, with all their original personality and skills, including, in one character's case, playing the piano. They're preoccupied with all-too-human matters like love triangles and estate disputes. **For fans of:** The Returned, The OA. **S2 premieres later this year.**



Queen Bey can help lift the veil on mom issues

OPINION

Pregnancy is awesome news — and a good time to reflect

Melita Kuburas and Genna Buck
Metro Canada



Beyoncé announced her pregnancy on Instagram. INSTAGRAM

Beyoncé is about to become an even busier mom: The superstar announced Wednesday she is pregnant with twins, expanding her family with husband Jay Z and daughter Blue Ivy.

Beyoncé is known for her activism — she has sampled a rousing speech on feminism by writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie in Flawless, criticized police brutality, and also campaigned for Hillary Clinton. So here are four critical maternal-health causes that could benefit from having Queen Bey sprinkle her unique influence and impact on them:

1) Global maternal health
The number of maternal deaths globally per year has gone down an astonishing 45 per cent since 1990, even as the population grew by 2 billion people. But that progress is fragile, and could be jeopardized by the strict conditions President Trump has ordered upon U.S. family planning funding in the developing world.

2) Vaccination
Celebrity support — mostly from Z-listers like Jenny McCarthy — has fanned the flames of anti-vaccination conspiracy theories, lending them legitimacy and leading to real-world consequences, like the resurgence of measles in North America. One Instagram photo of Bey and the twins getting their shots could help turn the crazy train around.

3) Parental leave
The United States is still the only industrialized country with no guaranteed paid maternity leave. Queen Bey could use her privileged position to advocate for women — especially low-income and minority women — who get by with a whole lot less.

4) Breastfeeding
The pressure to conform to "breast is best" ideology because of breastfeeding's health benefits has led to a brutal battle in the ongoing mommy wars. If Beyoncé opened up about her own nursing, or made a point to support women no matter how they choose to feed their babies — she could go a long way to healing the rift.

We recognize this multihyphenate woman will have a lot to worry about with a new brood and thriving career. But she has already shown she celebrates the beauty and power of pregnancy, so we think Beyoncé would approve of using this opportunity as a reminder of women's health, as it's under threat by Trump.



JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

It's good...but it's not Breaking Bad

THE SHOW: Sneaky Pete, Season 1, Episode 4 (Amazon)
THE MOMENT: The nine-minute monologue

Con man Marius (Giovanni Ribisi) owes money to bad, bad Vince (Bryan Cranston, who co-created the series). But Marius is hiding in Connecticut under the alias Pete (hence the title). To punish Marius, Vince is about to chop a digit off Marius's brother Eddie (Michael Drayer). (Note to actors in crime dramas: beware playing Eddies. Eddies rarely win.)

Vince's gorgeous girlfriend and four henchmen gather for the deed. But first, Vince spins a story that lasts nine minutes: When he was a rookie cop, his experienced partner Lonnie told him to break the arm of Terence, a teenage repeat offender. Vince couldn't do it.

Years later, Terence killed a cop. Lonnie took Vince to a desolate field, where other cops had dug a grave. Terence, badly beaten, knelt on the edge. Lonnie pressed a gun into Vince's hand and whispered in his ear, "Okay, motherf*cker, you broke it, you bought it."

This is the kind of silky-menace speech that actors live for. Everyone else in the room stands rigid, silently listening, while you purr around, pour yourself a drink, sit down, stand up, talk into people's faces, then gaze off. Viewers know Vince is going to hand the bolt-cutters to a henchman with that exact same line.

But it's strange watching Cranston do this here, since his previous series, Breaking Bad, mastered these scenes and then went beyond them, to places more kinetic and less predictable.

Nine minutes gives us plenty of time to wonder what Vince Gilligan's writing room would have worked up.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Construction Safety Nova Scotia

The Board of Directors, management and staff at Construction Safety Nova Scotia would like to congratulate **Lori Ross** (CHSC) and **Isaac Hill** (CRSP) on having achieved their professional designations, Certified Health & Safety Consultant and Canadian Registered Safety Professional.



We would also like to congratulate **Lissa Gaudet** of McNally Construction and **Laura Ryan** of Lindsay Construction, both former staff of Construction Safety Nova Scotia, for also achieving their CRSP professional designation.

Construction Safety Nova Scotia is dedicated to encouraging its employees to strive for the highest grade of professional development to ensure the best quality of performance in our industry.



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metro HOME

Your essential daily news

Anti-homelessness activists occupied vacant London, U.K., mansion





5 WAYS TO BRING SPRING TO YOUR HOME RIGHT NOW

Greenery may represent the fresh start we all crave for 2017, said Pantone, the self-described global authority on colour, in claiming the springy green-yellow hue as its colour of the year. Whether you prefer to add just a pop of colour or to fully commit with a painted wall, we've pulled five fresh finds to reinvigorate your space and bring the outside in. **DEBRA NORTON/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



1 Furniture

Not for the commitment-shy, investing in a piece of furniture, whether it's a sofa or an accent chair, is not within everyone's budget or comfort level. But if you do dare to go green, go big with this sumptuous, velvet sofa. **Sven sofa in grass green, $1,299, article.com.**

2 In living colour



For the commitment-phobe, add a pop of green by mixing in a little living colour. Go with fresh plants and flowers or go faux if your thumb is more black than green. This lucky bamboo plant works in a small space, and the majesty palm can be moved outdoors when patio weather arrives. **Ravenea (majesty palm), $19.99, ikea.com.**



3 Walls

On the scale of commitment to bold colour choices, painting or wallpapering can be significant. Try painting an accent wall in this year's hue - it's easy to swap out with a new colour when the mood strikes - or commit to a pretty wallpaper to make a stylish impact in a small space or on a feature wall. You'll be dreaming of this whimsical wallpaper available in rolls or re-movable, reusable wallpaper tiles**. Julia Rothman Daydream (Green) Tiles, $58 (U.S.) for set of two 24-by-32-inch tiles, hyggeandwest.com.**



4 Textiles

Soft textiles - decorative pillows, bedding, throws or drapery (if you are more daring) - are other ways to experiment with colour, along with adding pattern and texture to a room. A touch of green within the pattern on a pillow or a cosy woven throw lets you add green with a moderate level of commitment. Layer on all the greens in this Japanese paper-inspired pillow. **Windsor Park palm pillow cover, $46.95, tonicliving.ca.**

5 Everyday objects

Accessories are often inexpensive ways to satisfy your desire for an on-trend colour. Stack vintage books in tones of green on a shelf, look for pretty shallow dishes to hold spare change or keys in the front entry or fill a pretty faceted glass vase with fresh flowers and double the dose of greenery. **Hasani Angular Vase by Eightmood, $24.50, indigo.ca.**



metro SPORTS



The Patriots rallied late to defeat the Falcons 27-24 in EA Sports' Madden 17 Super Bowl simulation

Shapovalov adapting to life as a pro player

TENNIS

Ankle injury, life on the road have challenged 17-year-old



Denis Shapovalov is currently ranked No. 234 in the world. JUSTIN TALLIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Denis Shapovalov's transition to professional tennis hasn't come without its struggles.

An ankle injury suffered last fall while training made the 17-year-old Canadian prospect wonder whether turning pro was the right move. Shapovalov had even entered into the junior tournament at the Australian Open in hopes of getting some more playing time.

But after chatting with his team, it was decided that there wasn't any point in going back to the junior ranks.

"If I commit to pros, I really got to stick to it and I think it was a good decision," Shapovalov said in a phone interview from Ottawa, where he's preparing for this weekend's Davis Cup World Group tie against Britain.

Shapovalov, from Richmond Hill, Ont., originally decided to jump from juniors to the pros after winning the Wimbledon boys singles title last July. Increased travel demands, however, have resulted in Shapovalov being home for only a few days so far this year.

"Obviously it's tough, missing my parents, family in general but I'm getting used to it," Shapovalov said.

"It's the life and hopefully I'll get some time to go home maybe for a week or a bit to catch up on things."

Shapovalov, currently ranked No. 234 in the world, broke into the spotlight in 2016. Along with the Wimbledon victory, he shocked current world No. 15 Nick Kyrgios in the first round of the Rogers Cup in Toronto and earned a Davis Cup singles victory in his debut against Chile in September.

> **We have a great prospect in our hands.**
> Martin Laurendeau

Shapovalov has carried that momentum into this year and already has a victory over Pierre-Hugues Herbert of France, then ranked No. 76, in the round of 16 at the East Hotel Canberra Challenger in Australia.

The southpaw underwent a coaching switch in the offseason, splitting with Adriano Fuorivia, who he had worked with for over four years. Canadian Davis Cup captain Martin Laurendeau was hired as his replacement.

Laurendeau said joining forces with the six-foot, 132-pound is a good fit, as the 52-year-old is also responsible for Tennis Canada's transition program.

Though Laurendeau praises Shapovalov's ability, he cautioned that the teenager is currently is a key transition period.

"It's where they either make it or break," Laurendeau said. "It's not a given that if you're a top junior in the world that you automatically become a top player in the men's game.

"You have to be patient and disciplined and just go through the steps and just make sure we manage that career carefully with wild cards. You don't have to speed up somebody so fast that you burn some steps, but you don't want to hold him down either so it's always a fine balance and that's the challenge." THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Hitchcock fired over Blues' recent woes

The Blues abruptly fired coach Ken Hitchcock on Wednesday, cutting short the veteran's final season in St. Louis and putting coach-in-waiting Mike Yeo in charge of the underperforming team months earlier than planned.

General manager Doug Armstrong announced the change one day after the Blues' fifth loss in six games.

"We don't lose with pride," an emotional Armstrong said at a news conference.

"I don't think that we've given our best effort, and, Ken, ultimately he's paying the price with all our failures, starting with mine."

The 65-year-old Hitchcock was in his sixth season as Blues coach. They went 248-124-41 and made the playoffs in each of his five seasons, reaching the Western Conference final last spring. But St. Louis went just 5-8 in January and at 24-21-5 was mired in eighth place in the Western Conference entering the day.

Armstrong said Hitchcock took the news hard.

"He was defiant to the end. There was no kumbaya last night. He was angry." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CORSI OUT

Goaltending coach Jim Corsi was also fired, and his duties will be handled by assistant GM and Hall of Fame goaltender Martin Brodeur and Ty Conklin, the team's goalie development coach.

Marleau on cusp of 500-goal milestone

Patrick Marleau is closing in on the 500 career goal milestone the same way he has played the rest of his 19 years in the NHL: with alarming speed.

With six goals in his past four games for the San Jose Sharks, Marleau has moved within one goal of becoming the 45th player to reach the 500-goal mark in his career. Only 17 members of the 500-goal club reached the mark with their original team like Marleau can do. He gets his next chance on Thursday night when the Sharks (32-17-2) visit Vancouver (23-21-6).



Patrick Marleau GETTY IMAGES

"It feels good," said Marleau, 37. "It's one of those things you just can't help but be asked questions about it or talk about. Just the way the team is playing right now is a bonus." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PREMIER LEAGUE

Manchester City imposes will on West Ham



Gabriel Jesus had one of City's four goals Wednesday. GLYN KIRK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Manchester City's players looked like they could score at will in their latest big win over West Ham. Manchester United couldn't even manage one goal against Hull.

On an evening of contrasting fortunes in the Premier League for the Manchester giants' expensive strikeforces, City thrashed West Ham 4-0 away to close the gap on its rivals for Champions League qualification and United was held 0-0 by a team that started the game in last place.

City was the only member of the top six to win in the midweek round of fixtures and moved level on points with fourth-place Liverpool, with 15 games left this season. United is in sixth place, four points adrift of the top four after a third straight draw for Jose Mourinho's side.

While Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Paul Pogba were getting frustrated at Old Trafford, Gabriel Jesus was leading City's dismantling of West Ham on his first start for the team after being picked ahead of Sergio Aguero in what could be seen as a nod to the future.

Jesus was joined on the scoresheet by Kevin De Bruyne, David Silva and Yaya Toure. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Sens deal for forward Hagel

The Ottawa Senators acquired forward Marc Hagel from the Minnesota Wild on Wednesday in exchange for future considerations.

Hagel, 28, has seven points (two goals and five assists) in 26 games with AHL Iowa this season.

He will be assigned to AHL Binghamton and was expected to be in the lineup for Friday's home game against the Hershey Bears, the Senators said in a release. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bolt not holding a grudge over stripped gold medal

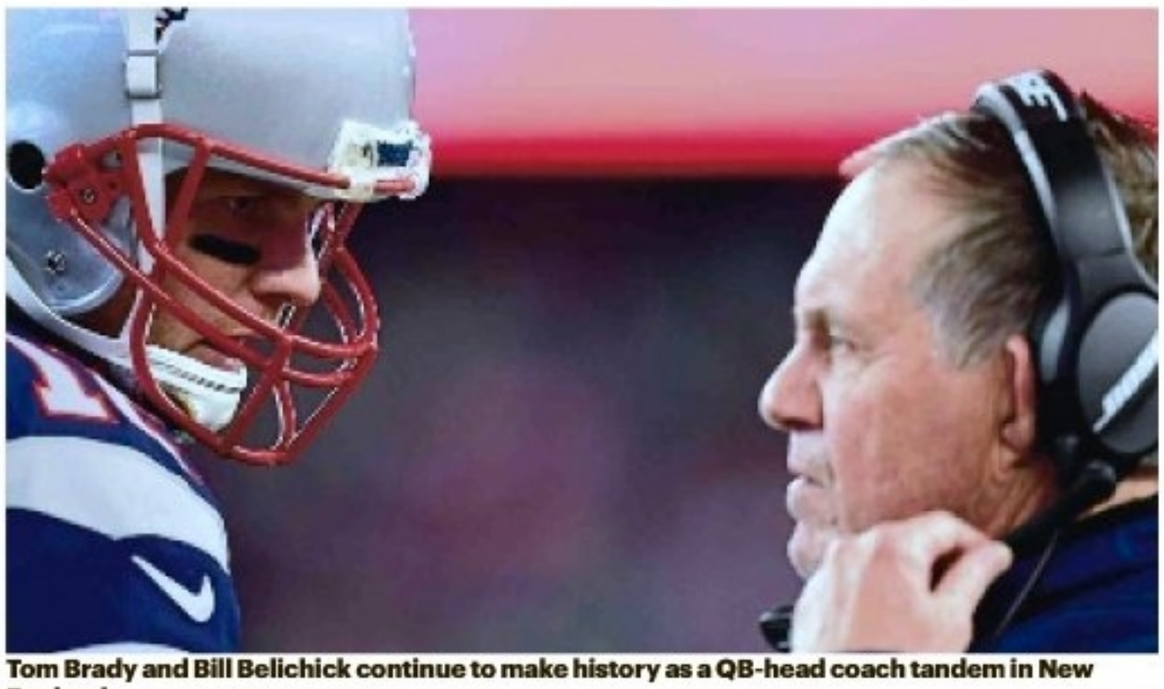
Usain Bolt says he is resigned to the fact that he's lost one of his nine Olympic gold medals, but isn't holding any grudges against drug-tainted Jamaican relay teammate Nesta Carter.

Carter has said he will appeal after re-analysis of his sample from the 2008 Beijing Games using more advanced scientific methods returned a positive test to the prohibited stimulant methylhexaneamine. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brady and Belichick's secret recipe

SUPER BOWL

Ex-Patriot Sam says it's their desire to prove themselves



Tom Brady and Bill Belichick continue to make history as a QB-head coach tandem in New England. BILLIE WEISS/GETTY IMAGES

They're pro football's dynamic duo, the crusty head coach and ageless quarterback, chasing yet another Super Bowl title.

But former Patriots receiver P.K. Sam believes it's a burning desire to constantly prove themselves that sets New England's Bill Belichick and Tom Brady above the rest in the NFL.

"It's a rare case of two people being on the same page," Sam, also a former CFL player, said via telephone. "They both had a lot to prove and I think they just came together and said, 'No matter what, we're going to do this.'

"It's something I don't think we'll see again in our lifetime."

Belichick became New England's head coach in 2000, five years after being fired by the Cleveland Browns. Brady, now 39, arrived months later as a sixth-round draft pick despite a 20-5 record as a two-year starter at Michigan. They'll make a record seventh Super Bowl appearance together Sunday when New England faces the Atlanta Falcons. A win would be their fifth, the most for a head coach-quarterback tandem.

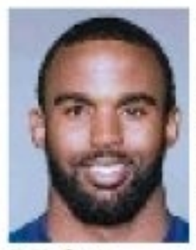
The six-foot-three, 210-pound Sam knows a thing or two about Belichick and Brady. The former Florida State receiver was a 2004 fifth-round pick by New England and spent two seasons there, receiving a Super Bowl ring as a 21-year-old rookie. Since '01, New England has the NFL's most regular-season (196), playoff (24) and Super Bowl wins (four). Belichick and Brady have been a constant for a franchise forever tweaking its roster.

Sam, 33, appeared in two of New England's first five games in 2004 before going on injured reserve with a groin injury. Sam said he locked horns with Belichick about the move because it cost him roughly US$70,000 in salary and Sam felt he could've returned later that season.

Sam went to the reserve/suspended list in January 2005 after violating team rules. He wasn't with the Patriots when they beat the Philadelphia Eagles 24-21 in Super Bowl XXXIX.

"What people don't know was back in my day if you were drafted after the third round, you had what was called a split contract," said Sam, now working in IT sales in Dayton, Ohio. "If you went on IR, your contract was split in half. "It was a case of me standing my ground and obviously he stood his. But I took it too far, I made a mistake and showed up late one day and that was kind of the final straw."

> **It's a rare case of two people being on the same page.**
> P.K. Sam on Brady and Belichick.



P.K. Sam GETTY IMAGES FILE

Sam also played for Cincinnati, Oakland, Miami and Buffalo as well as Toronto (2008-09, 2011) and Calgary (2010) in the CFL. He remained upset about the New England suspension until 2012 when while listening to a radio program he heard someone say, 'Until you wish success for people, you yourself will never receive it.' That prompted Sam to write an apology to Belichick, stating he hoped one day they could meet and shake hands. That happened months later at the Super Bowl in Indianapolis where the Patriots lost 21-17 to the New York Giants.

Sam wrote Belichick again last week but his letter was aimed at Patriots players. "I'm not sure he'll have time to read it to them," Sam said. "It's to the younger guys.

"It doesn't matter if you're on IR or the practice squad, you're still part of the team and your actions can help or hurt the team going into Super Bowl Sunday."

Time has given Sam a new perspective on Belichick's tough-love approach. "It's difficult when you're young but as an older guy now what he teaches you lasts beyond football," Sam said. "Accountability and the slogan that's become famous and attached to his name: 'Just do your job.' That's life. THE CANADIAN PRESS



SUPER BOWL

Fallen pivot Vick hopes Falcons soar

Michael Vick never led the Atlanta Falcons to the Super Bowl. His career with the team ended in disgrace. Yet no one is rooting harder for the Falcons to win their first championship.

"A lot of people are surprised when they find out how passionately I've been rooting for the Falcons this season," Vick wrote a 4,300-word letter posted Wednesday on The Players' Tribune website. "They assume that there is some sort of tension between us, some level of bitterness. And even when I tell people that it isn't the case, I have a feeling they may not exactly believe me."

Vick was perhaps the most dynamic player in franchise history, a quarterback who revolutionized the position with both his passing and running skills.

But after six years with the Falcons, a stint that included two playoff appearances and one trip to the NFC championship game, Vick was sent to prison in 2007 for running a dogfighting operation. While serving his time, the Falcons drafted Matt Ryan, handed him the starting quarterback job and cut all ties with Vick.

In his letter, Vick said he always thought he would get a chance to rejoin the team because of his unique bond with the city.



Michael Vick. GETTY IMAGES

"I wanted to lead the Falcons to the Super Bowl," he wrote. "In my mind, even from a prison cell, there was at least one thing I hadn't lost: I was still the Atlanta Falcons quarterback."

While at the Leavenworth federal penitentiary in Kansas, Vick learned the Falcons had taken Ryan with the No. 3 overall pick in 2008. Heartbroken, he finally realized there was no going back to Atlanta, at least as a member of the home team.

Vick played five years for the Philadelphia Eagles and had backup stints with the New York Jets and Pittsburgh Steelers. He did not play this past season and will reportedly hold a retirement bash the night before the Super Bowl in Houston. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Drones banned for big one

The Federal Aviation Administration is warning that drones won't be allowed in the airspace around the Super Bowl between the New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday in Houston.

The FAA said in a statement Wednesday that certain aircraft operations including drones will be prohibited within a 34.5-mile radius of NRG Stadium from 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. on Sunday. FAA Administrator Michael Huerta says, "Drones are becoming popular, but they also pose certain safety risks." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



There's a great deal more work to be done

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell on rumblings of the Raiders' move to Las Vegas

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Budget-friendly Spiced Flank Steak with Chimichurri Sauce



PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI



Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This recipe features inexpensive flank steak with an herb sauce that packs five-star flavour.

Ready in 25 minutes
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Serves 4 to 6

Ingredients
- 1 beef flank steak (900 kg)
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp coriander
- 1/2 tsp cumin
- 1/4 tsp oregano
- 1/4 tsp pepper

For the Chimichurri
- 1/2 cup packed fresh basil
- 1/2 cup packed fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 1/2 cup packed fresh cilantro
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, roughly chopped
- 2 tsp lime juice
- 1 Tbsp white wine vinegar
- 1 tsp anchovy paste
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/8 tsp pepper

Directions

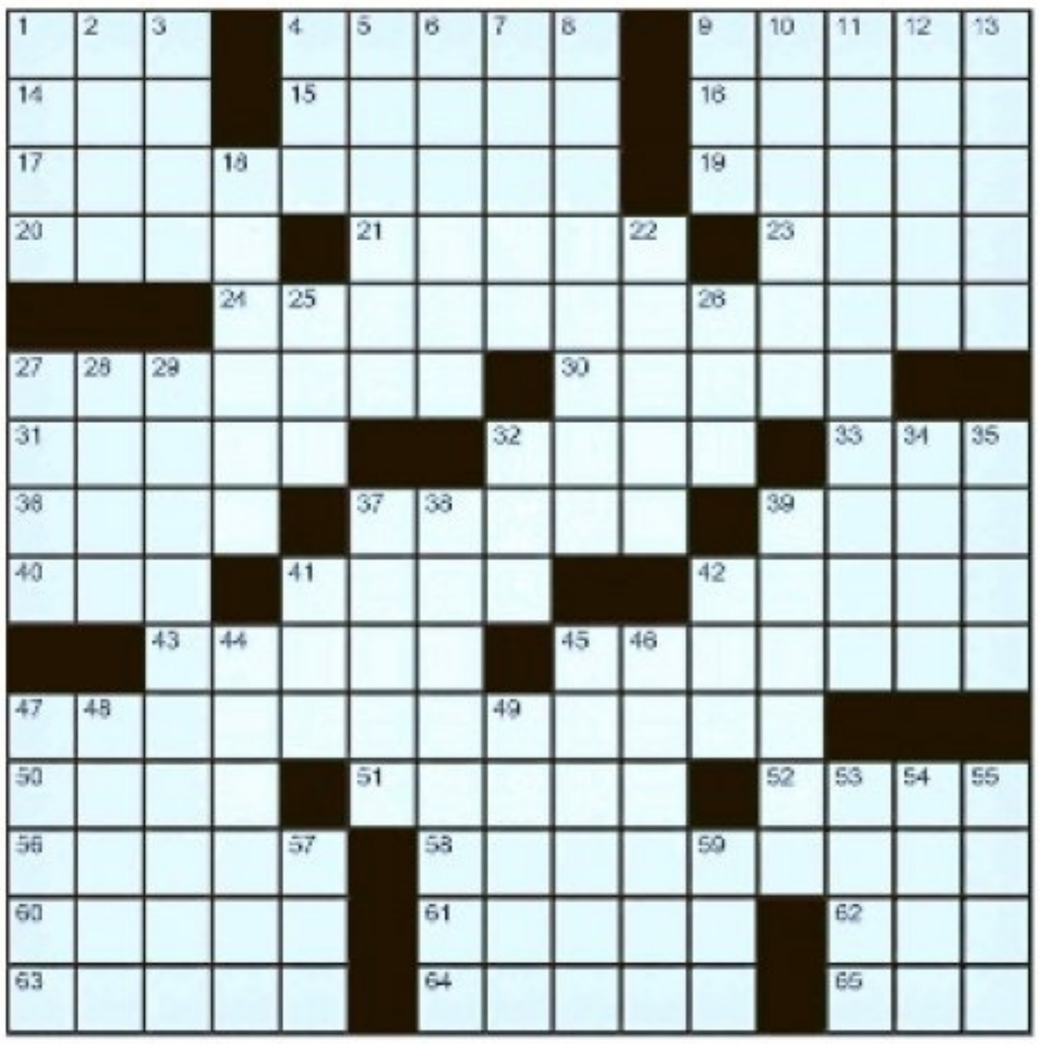
1. For chimichurri: Place all chimchurri ingredients in blender. Process, shaking blender if necessary, until smooth. Pour into a serving bowl.

2. For steak: Preheat broiler. Coat a broil pan with cooking spray. Combine salt, coriander, cumin and oregano and pepper, and sprinkle over both sides of steak. Place steak on pan and broil 4 minutes per side. Transfer to a cutting board and allow to rest 5 minutes. Cut against grain into 1/4-inch wide strips. Serve with chimichurri spooned on top and a fresh greens and sliced cherry tomatoes.

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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Implore
4. Rice/seaweed roll
9. Charming spots to sit and sip, such as in Old Montreal
14. Madonna movie role
15. 19th-century composer Mr. Bruckner
16. Toward the stern
17. Sleeping time in the army: 2 wds.
19. Montcalm's 1759 Battle of Quebec opponent
20. To boot
21. Seven-plus-One
23. "Sole Survivor" band
24. Town in southern Alberta about an hour west of Lethbridge: 2 wds.
27. Conquers
30. Chirpers
31. _ squash
32. Restaurant chain, with Bell
33. Strong little boat
36. "_ the Boss?"
37. Give a guess
39. Destiny
40. Negative word
41. Crooked
42. Fable's lesson
43. Bobby Hull's son
45. Detectives
47. Village in western Saskatchewan, sounds like a perfect place from the name: 2 wds.
50. Opposin'
51. Prometheus, for one
52. Montreal's world fair in '67
56. Hostel
58. Secretly listen in on
60. Georgia who played Georgette on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"
61. Put into heard words
62. Appropriate
63. Open court hearings
64. Mr. Towel
65. Go-ahead-er's answer

DOWN
1. "Dracula" (1931) name
2. Downright nasty
3. Practical jokes
4. Idled
5. Like a letter that never went into the mailbox
6. Ancient Greece: Followers of Zeno of Citium
7. Dancer/actress/singer Julianne
8. A sure thing: 3 wds.
9. Cornfield cry
10. "All _!" (Call from the train)
11. Runner's mistake on the track: 2 wds.
12. _ White, Jennifer Hudson's Oscar-winning role in "Dreamgirls" (2006)
13. Montreal _ Spice (Seasoning sort)
18. Dreamers
22. In the blink of an eye
25. Mr. Somerhalder
26. _-Magnon man
27. Aurora
28. Reverberate
29. Overpass for pedestrians
32. Famed tomb king, commonly
34. Beehive State
35. Hair salon goos
37. Comprehend: 2 wds.
38. Most fidgety
39. Broke a sports rule
41. _ & Breakfast
42. "Alice" diner operator
44. New York _, Mark Messier, once
45. Electric _ (Beard trimmer)
46. _ algebra
47. The _ Diet ('Caveman' diet)
48. Suffering
49. Stage, as of a cycling event, in France
53. Hospital photo
54. Vatican bigwig
55. Chooses
57. "Desperate Housewives" cast member ...her initials-sharers
59. Sun's spot

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Your enthusiasm for something will make bosses and parents sit up and listen. Just make sure your ideas are doable and realistic. Nevertheless, enthusiasm is contagious!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You're excited about big travel plans, because you want to go places! You also enjoy studying lofty topics and having profound discussions about philosophy, religion and politics.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If you have to decide how to divide an inheritance or share something today, you will be more than generous. This is why you must be sure to take care of your own best interests.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Conversations with partners and close friends are upbeat and friendly today. You're in the mood to schmooze and have fun!

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You have great ideas at work today because you are enthusiastic about something. You will find it easy to get others to climb on board and endorse what you want to do. Work-related travel is likely.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is a playful, fun-loving day! Make plans to socialize with others. Enjoy sports events, fun activities with children and romantic get-togethers. Have fun!

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You have big plans today about future repairs for where you live. However, this also is a great day to have the gang over for good food and drink.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You are optimistic today. You're pondering big ideas and big projects. This is all well and good, but just make sure that what you want to do is doable.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This is a great day for business and commerce. Whatever you do today could possibly boost your income, because you have moneymaking ideas.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Today Mercury is in your sign, dancing with lucky moneybags Jupiter. This makes you full of big ideas. Others will be attracted to your enthusiasm and positive frame of mind.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a pleasant day! Whatever you do, you will feel confident about the future and your upcoming plans. You value your privacy today.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a great day to hang out with younger people and have fun. You will enjoy interacting with clubs, groups and associations. You feel positive about your future goals.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		8	1	4			5	
	6			2	5			9
7					6	3		
3						1	9	
6	8			7			4	3
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	7			3	9	4		

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4	9	7	8	5	2	3	1	6
5	8	2	1	3	6	7	9	4
6	5	1	3	7	8	9	4	2
7	3	4	5	2	9	1	6	8
8	2	9	4	6	1	5	3	7
2	7	6	9	8	3	4	5	1
9	1	8	6	4	5	2	7	3
3	4	5	2	1	7	6	8	9

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